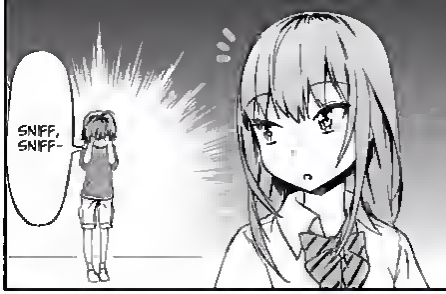
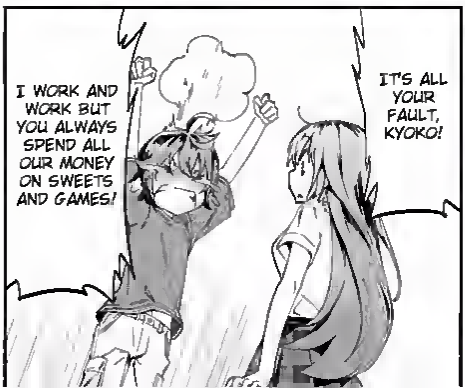
Chapter 12 Bean Sprout Pepperoncini, Etc.

WHAT'S WRONG, SHINOBU?

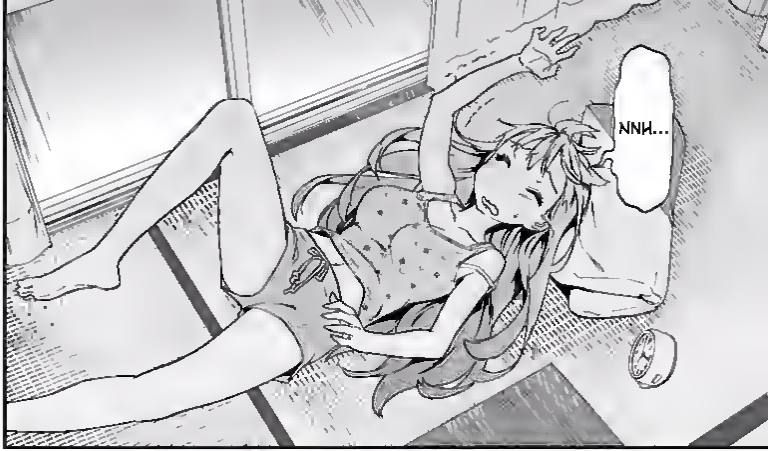

SNIFF, SNIFF-

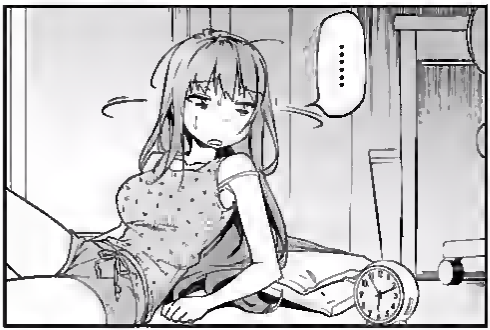
I'M SO HUNGRY...
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY LEFT, SO I CAN'T BUY FOOD...


I WORK AND WORK BUT YOU ALWAYS SPEND ALL OUR MONEY ON SWEETS AND GAMES!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, KYOKO!

YEAH, IT'S HARD, ISN'T IT.

SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, I'VE DECIDED THAT I'M GOING TO START HELPING OUT THIS FACELESS OLD MAN
UGH...
UGH...
SORRY, SORRY
BUT DON'T YOU JUST PLAY AROUND TOO, SHINOBU?
HELP OUT?
WHAT DOES A FACELESS OLD MAN NEED HELP WITH?
NOW, WHY DON'T WE SEE WHAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAN DO FOR THIS FACELESS OLD MAN...
WITH PLEASURE, SIR
HUH? SINCE WHEN ARE YOU A GIRL, SHINOBU?
AH! WAIT, SHINOBU! WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT FACELESS OLD MAN? WAIT!!
PLEASE DON'T HATE ME FOR THIS, KYOKO
SHINOBU! I'M SORRY, IT'S ALL MY FAULT! TAKE ME INSTEAD...!
WAIT!


NNH...


.....

WAH!
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Mix five ounces of miso with one half cup of mirin.
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SHI-NOBU...
IT'S STILL EVENING

And after that, mix a pocket of kelp dashi granules with a fourth of a cup of water for later
Chop up a green onion-
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When you can smell the onion, mix in the miso and mirin, and stir until thick.
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Heat sesame oil in a pan and fry the green onion.
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Once the water evaporates, mix in the kelp dashi and water, and let thicken again.
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ジィー
THAT SURE WAS A CRAZY DREAM...
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WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
NEGI-MISO.

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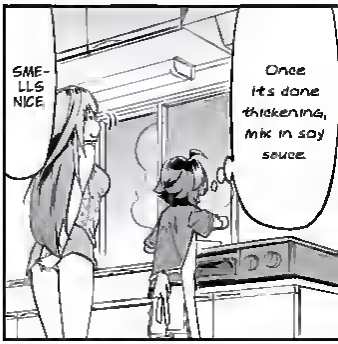
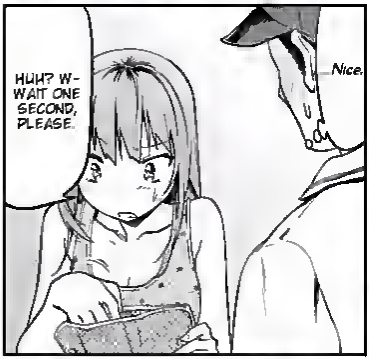
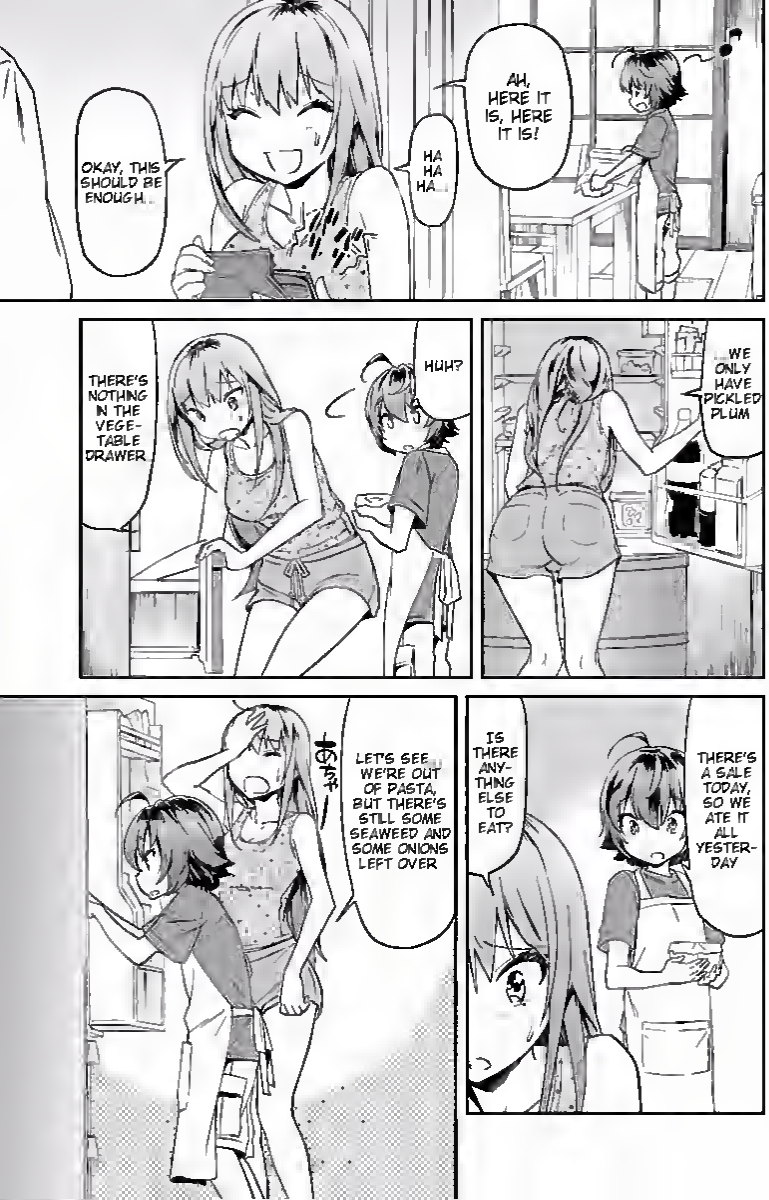
I'LL GET THE DOOR
NOW ALL WE NEED FOR DINNER IS A MAIN COURSE
IT TURNED OUT WELL!


SME-LLS NICE
Once it's done thickening, mix in soy sauce.


HUH? W-WAIT ONE SECOND, PLEASE.
...Nice.

OH, THE OKOME-CHAN SLEEPING BAG I ORDERED ONLINE IS HERE!
THAT'LL BE 8200 YEN

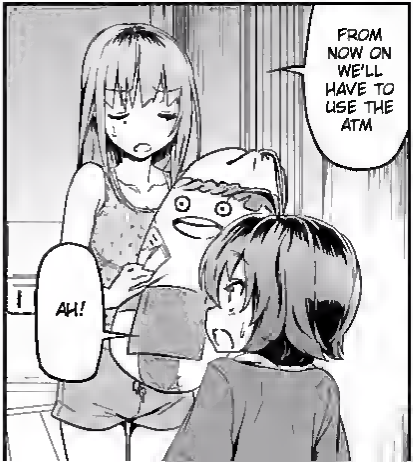
J- JUST ONE SECOND!
...Nice.


AH, HERE IT IS, HERE IT IS!
HA HA HA
OKAY, THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH
THERE'S A SALE TODAY, SO WE ATE IT ALL YESTER-DAY
IS THERE ANY-THING ELSE TO EAT?
LET'S SEE WE'RE OUT OF PASTA, BUT THERE'S STILL SOME SEAWEED AND SOME ONIONS LEFT OVER
HUH?
THERE'S NOTHING IN THE VEGE-TABLE DRAWER
...WE ONLY HAVE PICKLED PLUM

I bought the thing.
THIS JUST GOT DELIVERED TO THE HOUSE, AND I DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY IN MY PURSE, SO I HAD TO BORROW FROM THE HOUSE WALLET.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO SHOPPING, SO-
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I DIDN'T PLAN ON HAVING TO BORROW MONEY, SO NOW THERE'S ONLY 13 YEN LEFT IN THE HOUSE WALLET....

YEAH, I KNOW THAT, BUT...
You always buy such useless stuff
YEAH, MAKE SURE YOU PAY THAT BACK.


FROM NOW ON WE'LL HAVE TO USE THE ATM
AH!

THEN, IF THERE'S NO MONEY LEFT IN THAT...
HUH?

WHEN AUNT RIYUKO CHECKS OUR ACCOUNT, SHE'S GONNA NOTICE THE TRANSACTION FEES ON THE WITHDRAWALS!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT WOULD BE A STRIKE!
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WHEN KYOKO AND SHINOBU FIRST WANTED TO LIVE ALONE, THEIR AUNT CONSENTED, BUT ONLY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS...
...IF, DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR DAILY LIVES, THE TWO EVER MADE SOME ERROR, A STRIKE WOULD BE ADDED TO THEIR COUNT.
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AND, IF THE COUNT EVER GOT HIGH ENOUGH, THE TWO WOULD NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO LIVE BY THEMSELVES.
IF I HAD TO LIVE WITH AUNT RIYUKO, I'D BE TOO SCARED TO GET OUT OF BED EVERY DAY...
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YEAH, I DON'T WANT TO, EITHER...
HMM... SO, TO SUM UP-

OUR AUNT IS REALLY SCARY.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY, BUT WE CAN'T BORROW ANY FROM THE BANK.
I'M HUN-GRY.
WE NEED TO START MAKING DINNER, BUT THERE'S NOTHING IN THE FRIDGE.
WE SHOULD EAT THE WHITE RICE, TOO.
LUCKILY, WE'VE GOT THE NEGIMISO YOU JUST MADE.
AND THERE'S PICKLED PLUM.
WHICH MEANS WE HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH WHAT WE HAVE.
NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
BUT WE'RE ALREADY HAVING NEGIMISO, ISN'T THAT JUST THE SAME?
AND WITH THE LEFTOVER ONIONS AND SEAWEED, I CAN MAKE SOME MISO SOUP.
YOU'RE SO RELIABLE, OKOME-CHAN!
RICE IS ALL YOU NEED FOR A GOOD MEAL! AS LONG AS WE HAVE THAT, WE'RE OKAY!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? GEEZ...
HAAH... WHY'D I HAVE TO GO AND BUY THIS STUPID THING, ANYWAY?

IF I DON'T SHAPE UP, SHINOBU'S GONNA END UP GOING OFF WITH SOME FACELESS OLD MAN...
?
WAS MY DREAM EARLIER... A VISION?

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SO POOR...

WE'VE ACTUALLY GOT A TON OF SEASONINGS HERE, IF WE JUST HAD THE MAIN INGREDIENT WE COULD MAKE SOMETHING GOOD...
SHINOBU, HOW MUCH POCKET MONEY DO YOU HAVE LEFT?

AH, THERE ARE TWO CLOVES OF GARLIC IN HERE.
THERE'S A BIT OF LEFTOVER BACON, TOO
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH SIDES, BUT I WISH WE HAD A MAIN DISH

...I'VE GOT 70 YEN.

KYOKO, SHOULDN'T YOU PUT SOME MORE CLOTHES ON?
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WE'RE POOR NOW, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WEAR FANCY CLOTHES
That's not how this works...
IF BANANAS WERE THIS CHEAP ANY OTHER TIME, I WOULD BUY AS MANY AS I COULD CARRY!
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BANANAS
¥88
I'M FINALLY LEARNING THE HARSH LESSONS OF THIS DESTITUTE LIFESTYLE...
IT'S JUST FOR TONIGHT, THOUGH! WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY POOR, OKAY?

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SHINOBU! I NEED YOU TO PROMISE ME SOMETHING RIGHT NOW!
UGH... JUST THINKING ABOUT BEING POOR IS MAKING ME DEPRESSED...
DON'T WORRY! EVEN IF WE LOSE ALL OUR MONEY, I'D COME UP WITH SOMETHING!
SO IF WE LOSE ALL OUR MONEY PROMISE ME YOU WON'T HELP OUT ANY FACELESS OLD MEN, OKAY?
HELP OUT...?
I'M GONNA SHAPE UP FROM HERE ON OUT!
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TWO BAGS IS PLENTY!
WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT KIND OF WASTE!
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BEAN SPROUTS ¥15
WE CAN EVEN BUY FIVE WHOLE BAGS!
HEY, LOOK HOW CHEAP THESE BEAN SPROUTS ARE!
BEAN SPROUTS ¥15

Okaka - Bonito flakes mixed with various sauces

MIX THE PACK OF BONITO WITH ONE, NO, ONE AND A HALF TABLE-SPOONS OF MAYO-NNAISE!
PUT IN THREE DROPS OF SOY SAUCE!
JUST ONE PACK LEFT...
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S TWO DONE!
HEH HEH HEH...
These chopped green onions and this seaweed should be good to make miso soup with.
AND THAT MAKES THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF OKAKA!
Looks like the rice is done.
For the main dish, the bean sprouts, take out a frying pan and put in a splash of olive oil
Add in two cloves of finely diced garlic and a bit of chopped chili pepper, and let simmer over low heat

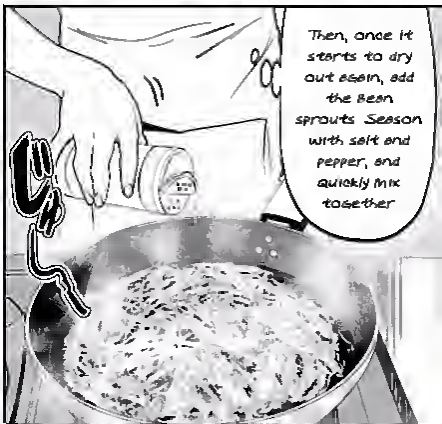
COUGH-COUGH-!
HUH? COULD YOU SAY THAT AGAIN...?

IF YOU'RE FRYING, WOULD YOU PERHAPS LIKE TO BORROW MY SCHWARTZ SCHMELTZ?
Make sure to stop frying once you can smell it, so it won't burn.

THE CHILI PEPPER STARTS TO COME UP INTO THE AIR WHEN YOU FRY IT. COUGH
I won't let this stop me. Next, put in strips of bacon cut in one cm strips, and fry

—WHA-WHAT'S WITH ALL THIS SPICE...?
AH-CHOO!

Put it over high heat for a short amount of time - not too long, or the texture will be ruined!


Then, once it starts to dry out again, add the bean sprouts. Season with salt and pepper, and quickly mix together

TIME TO EAT!
Negimiso
Okaka Three Ways
Sesame
Plum
Mayo
Bean Sprout Pepperoncini
White Rice
Miso Soup with
Green Onion and Seaweed

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しゃく
WOW, IT TASTES JUST LIKE PEPPE-RONCINI!
IT'S CRISP AND IT TASTES GREAT!
YEAH, I THINK IT TURNED OUT PRETTY WELL
IF YOU PUT SOME OKAKA OR NEGIMISO ON YOUR RICE AND PICK IT UP WITH THE NORI, IT'S JUST LIKE A RICE BALL!
I STILL THINK I'D RATHER HAVE A REAL RICE BALL, THOUGH
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I BET THIS OKAKA WOULD BE GOOD ON TOP OF COLD TOFU, TOO
NAH, PRESSING EVERYTHING INTO SHAPE IS A PAIN, JUST EATING IT ALL TOGETHER IS WAY EASIER
ALL IT TAKES IS JUST A LITTLE BIT ON TOP AND I CAN EAT THE WHOLE BOWL!
NEGIMISO GOES REALLY WELL WITH RICE
YOU'RE ALREADY ON YOUR FOURTH BOWL, KYOKO
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE OUT OF MONEY, WE STILL MANAGED TO WHIP UP SOMETHING DELICIOUS!

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT, EVEN IF WE ARE POOR SOMEDAY, WE CAN LIVE OFF OF CHEAP MEALS LIKE THIS ONE
I'M GONNA GET A JOB ONE DAY, AND MAKE ENOUGH MONEY SO YOU CAN EAT ALL THE DELICIOUS FOOD YOU EVER WANTED, KYOKO.
...WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU PLANNING ON DOING, SHINOBU?
チラッ
HMM, LET'S SEE...
SOME-THING THAT WOULD BE GOOD FOR SOCIETY...
SOMETHING THAT COULD BRING JOY TO PEOPLE, I GUESS...?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM FACELESS OLD MEN!!
HUH...?
What is it with her and faceless guys all of a sudden?

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Ane no Onaka wo Fukuramaseru no wa Boku

It's up to me to fill my sister's stomach!

Translation and Editing: Xthen